

SOUTHWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

10, Bulkington Avenue,
Worthing.

July 1945.

Madam and Gentlemen,

Annual Report 1944.

Acting on instructions from the Ministry of Health that reports should again be confined to essential and urgent matters which affected the public health during the year, especially any matter arising from or connected with the war, outbreaks of infectious disease, together with any exceptional administrative measures taken or recommended by the Medical Officer of Health, I beg to make the following observations.

General Statistics.

Area (Acres) 1,103.

Resident Population (1944) estimated by Registrar General, 8,710.

Population (1931) Census, 6,138.

Rateable Value (1944) £130,085.

Sum represented by ld. rate, £526.

No. of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to rate books, 3,061.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births -	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate ...	152	80	72	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 19.52
Illegitimate ...	18	12	6	
Stillbirths ...	3	-	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 17.34
Deaths ...	126	66	60	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 14.47.

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth:-

From Sepsis - Nil.

From other causes - Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births, 35.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, 39.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages), 19.

Deaths from Measles (all ages), Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages), Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 1.

Comparative Statistics, 1944.

	England & Wales.	West Sussex.		Southwick U.D.
		Urban	Rural.	
Birth Rate ...	17.6	18.52	19.58	19.52
Death Rate ...	11.6	16.62	13.36	14.47
Infantile Death Rate ...	46	44	45	35
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate ...	0.52	0.43	0.31	0.69
Cancer Death Rate ...	1.89	2.68	2.09	2.18
Zymotic Death Rate ...	-	0.14	0.04	0.23
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 births ...	1.93	2.0	2.5	0.0

Infectious Disease.

During the year the following cases of infectious disease were notified:

	No. notified.	No. of deaths.
Scarlet Fever	14 (32 in 1943)	Nil.
Pneumonia	21 (18 " ")	6.
Tuberculosis	12 (14 " ")	7.
Measles	84	Nil.
Whooping Cough	27	Nil.
Erysipelas	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	Nil.
Ac. Poliomyelitis	1.	Nil.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Diphtheria Immunisation has again been carried out during the year by the County Council. At the end of the year the position was as follows:

58.9% of children of school age had been immunised.
47.6% of children under school age had been immunised.

No case of Diphtheria was notified in the district during the year.

Scabies.

During the year 56 cases of Scabies were brought to the notice of the Health Department, namely:-

2 adults.
52 school children.
2 children under school age.

All cases were treated with Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion with satisfactory results. Clothes and bedding were disinfected by washing or hot ironing.

Evacuation.


At the end of the year there were 39 adult evacuees, 25 accompanied and 6 unaccompanied evacuee children in the district.

Housing.

There were no new houses erected during 1944.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:-

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	58
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	206
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	...	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	...	47



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2. Remedying of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice:-

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 47.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

No proceedings were taken under Statutory Powers.

Bacteriological Samples.

The usual samples of milk were taken as follows:-

	No. of samples taken.		No. complying with standard.	No. failing to comply with standard.
	By County Council.	By Local Authority.		
Accredited	6	33	26	13
Pasteurised	2	-	2	-

Where the samples failed to comply with the standard, appropriate action was taken.

Water.

There is an abundant and constant supply of pure water from the Brighton Corporation. All dwelling-houses have a piped supply laid on. There are no stand-pipes in the area. The water is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action. One sample of water was sent for chemical and bacteriological examination during the year and the result was satisfactory.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

1. No. of Council Houses:		
(a) Found to be infested	...	2
(b) Disinfested	...	2
2. No. of other houses:		
(a) Found to be infested.	...	5
(b) Disinfested.	...	5

S.O.2 fumigations, Thermatox and spraying with Zaldecide are the methods used for disinfesting.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

During the year 87 complaints of rat infestation have been reported and investigated. The Council have employed a part-time rat catcher who has dealt with infestations, mainly on private premises, and the Council have, in accordance with the Ministry of Food recommendations, made a charge to the householder of 2/6d. per house to cover the cost of treatment and bait. The treatment used in these cases was that recommended by the Ministry of Food, the P.3 trap together with arsenical bait.

The Council have had under discussion with the Ministry of Food Divisional Rodent Officer the question of sewer treatment in Southwick, this work will be carried out as soon as labour is available.

In co-operation with the Brighton Corporation work has been done in connection with rodent infestation on the premises of the Brighton Corporation Power Station.

The Council have maintained a supply of rat biscuits, break-back traps and mouse-traps which have been loaned to householders as and when required.

Owing to the difficulty encountered in the appointment of a part-time rat-catcher, it has not been possible to follow out the recommendations of the Ministry of Food in respect of detailed records of rats killed. The formula and procedure in respect of the P.3 Trap as laid down by the Ministry has been carried out.

Sanitary Inspection.

I have had a complete report from the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Eardley, as in previous years, but as this is not required I do not think it necessary to amplify any further beyond giving the following summary:-

Total no. of inspections made for all purposes	...	1,358.
Total no. of notices served:		
Informal	...	135.
Statutory	...	3.
Total no. of summonses issued	...	1.
Total no. of convictions obtained	...	1.
Complaints received	...	161.
Complaints found justified and dealt with	...	140.

Records.

All records, including statistics supplied by the Registrar General, are being carefully preserved in order that after the termination of the war a report can be made dealing more fully with the period from the beginning of 1939 to the end of the last complete year, so that annual records may, as far as practicable, be continuous and complete.

^{MADAM AND}
I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. H. WILSHAW.

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Southwick Urban District Council.

